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(54) Title: **USE OF CRIPTO-1 AS A BIOMARKER FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE AND METHOD OF INHIBITING PROGRESSION THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: A method of detecting a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises assaying the copy number of a Crip1 gene or the expression level of a Crip1 gene product in the central nervous system of the mammal, wherein an amplification of the Crip1 gene or an overexpression of the Crip1 gene product is indicative of a neurodegenerative disease in the mammal; a method of inhibiting progression of a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal an agent that inhibits Crip1 in an amount effective to inhibit Crip1 in the central nervous system of the mammal, whereupon the progression of the neurodegenerative disease is inhibited; and an isolated or purified oligonucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence of AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) or AGAAGGCAGATGCCACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).



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